

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gas generating composition for an air bag inflator comprising:

(a) ~~melamine cyanurate~~ or a mixture of ~~comprising~~ melamine cyanurate and ~~nitroguanidine a nitrogen-containing organic compound~~ as a fuel in an amount of 10 to 60% by mass; and

(b) at least one oxygen-containing oxidant selected from the group consisting of basic copper nitrate, basic cobalt nitrate, basic zinc nitrate and basic manganese nitrate.

2. (Previously Presented) The gas generating composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one component selected from (c) and (d):

(c) binder; and

(d) additive selected from metal oxides, metal hydroxides, metal carbonates, boric acid, and metaboric acid.

3. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 2, wherein the content of Component (a) is 10 to 60% by mass, and the content of Component (b) is 40 to 90% by mass.

4. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 2, wherein the content of Component (a) is 10 to 60% by mass, the content of Component (b) is 40 to 90% by mass, the content of Component (c) is 0 to 15% by mass, and the content of Component (d) is 20% by mass or less.

5. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein, when the fuel of Component (a) is a mixture of melamine cyanurate and a nitrogen-containing organic compound, the nitrogen-containing organic compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of tetrazole compounds including 5-aminotetrazole and ammonium bitetrazole; guanidine compounds including nitroguanidine, guanidine sulfate and dicyandiamide; and triazine compounds including melamine, trimethylol melamine, alkylated methylol melamine, ammeline, ammelande, nitrate salt of melamine, perchlorate salt of melamine, trihydrazino triazine and nitrated compound of melamine.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 or 4, wherein Component (c) is at least one binder selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, potassium carboxymethyl cellulose, ammonium carboxymethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate butylate, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, microcrystal cellulose, polyacrylamide, amino compound of polyacrylamide, polyacrylhydrazide, acrylamide/acrylic acid metal salt copolymer, polyacrylamide/polyacrylic acid ester compound copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch and silicone.

8. (Previously Presented) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 or 4, wherein Component (d) is at least one additive selected from the group consisting of metal oxides including copper oxide, iron oxide, zinc oxide, cobalt oxide, manganese oxide, molybdenum oxide, nickel oxide, bismuth oxide, silica and alumina; metal hydroxides including aluminum hydroxide, cobalt hydroxide, iron hydroxide and magnesium hydroxide; metal carbonates or basic metal carbonates including cobalt carbonate, calcium carbonate, basic zinc carbonate and basic copper carbonate; complex compounds of metal oxides or hydroxides including Japanese acid clay, kaolin, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth and hydrotalcite; metal acid salts including sodium silicate, mica molybdate, cobalt molybdate and ammonium molybdate; silicone, molybdenum disulfide, calcium stearate, silicon nitride, silicon carbide, metaboric acid, boric acid and boric anhydride.

9. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 1 comprising melamine cyanurate as Component (a) and basic copper nitrate as Component (b).

10. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 1 comprising 15 to 40% by mass of melamine cyanurate as Component (a) and 60 to 85% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b).

11. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 1 comprising 15 to 60% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and guanidine nitrate as Component (a) and 40 to 85% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b).

12. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 1 comprising 15 to 50% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and melamine as Component (a) and 50 to 85% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b).

13. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 1, comprising 15 to 50% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and ammonium bitetrazole as Component (a) and 50 to 85% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b).

14. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising melamine cyanurate as Component (a), basic copper nitrate as Component (b) and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose or guar gum as Component (c).

15. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 15 to 30% by mass of melamine cyanurate as Component (a), 40 to 90% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b) and 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose or guar gum as Component (c).

16. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 15 to 50% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and guanidine nitrate as Component (a), 50 to 80% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b) and 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose or guar gum as Component (c).

17. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 15 to 30% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and melamine as Component (a), from 60 to 80% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b) and from 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose or guar gum as Component (c).

18. (Original) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 10 to 30% by mass of melamine cyanurate as Component (a), 40 to 90% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b), 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose as Component (c), and 0.5 to 15% by mass of aluminum hydroxide as Component (d).

19. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 10 to 50% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and guanidine nitrate as Component (a), 40 to 90% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b), 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose as Component (c), and 1 to 10% by mass of aluminum hydroxide as Component (d).

20. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 10 to 30% by mass of a mixture of melamine cyanurate and melamine as Component (a), 40 to 90% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b), 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose as Component (c), and 0.1 to 15% by mass of aluminum hydroxide as Component (d).

21. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition according to claim 2 comprising 10 to 30% by mass of melamine cyanurate as Component (a), 40 to 90% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b), 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose as Component (c), and 1 to 10% by mass of magnesium hydroxide or metaboric acid as Component (d).

22. (Withdrawn) The gas generating composition comprising 10 to 30% by mass of melamine cyanurate as Component (a), 50 to 80% by mass of basic copper nitrate as Component (b), 0.1 to 10% by mass of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose as Component (c), and 0.1 to 10% by mass of at least one additive selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, silica, Japanese acid clay and diatomaceous earth as Component (d).

23. (Previously Presented) A molded article of a gas generating composition in a shape of a single-perforated cylinder or perforated (porous) cylinder obtained by extrusion of the gas generating composition according to claim 1 or 2.

24. (Withdrawn) A molded article of a gas generating composition in a shape of pellet obtained by compression-molding the gas generating composition according to claim 1 or 2.

25. (Previously Presented) An inflator for an air bag using the gas generating composition according to claim 1 or 2.

26. (Previously Presented) An inflator for an air bag using the molded article of the gas generating agent according to claim 23.

27. (Previously Presented) An inflator for an air bag using the molded article of the gas generating agent according to claim 24.

28. (Previously Presented) The gas generating composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen-containing oxidant of component (b) is basic copper nitrate.

29. (Currently Amended) A gas generating composition for an air bag inflator consisting essentially of:

(a) ~~melamine cyanurate~~ or a mixture of melamine cyanurate and nitroguanidine a ~~nitrogen-containing organic compound~~ as a fuel in an amount of 10 to 60% by mass;

(b) basic copper nitrate in an amount of 40 to 90% by mass;

(c) optionally a binder in an amount of 0 to 15% by mass; and

(d) optionally at least one additive selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, metal hydroxides, metal carbonates, boric acid, metaboric acid and mixtures thereof in an amount of 20% by mass or less.

30. (Previously Presented) The gas generating composition according to claim 29, wherein said composition consists essentially of components (a) and (b).

31. **(Currently Amended)** An air bag inflator comprising a gas generating composition comprising:

(a) ~~melamine cyanurate or a mixture of~~ comprising melamine cyanurate and nitroguanidine ~~a nitrogen-containing organic compound~~ as a fuel in an amount of 10 to 60% by mass; and

(b) oxygen-containing oxidant as an optional ingredient,

wherein Component (b) is at least one selected from the group consisting of basic copper nitrate, basic cobalt nitrate, basic zinc nitrate and basic manganese nitrate.